

~~SECRET~~  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

DEC 23 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: AD/CO

THROUGH:

- (1) DD/I
- (2) Assistant to the Director ( )
- (In turn)

25X1

FROM: AD/SI

SUBJECT: Request for Information on Mr. William Marchant's  
"Projecting Electronic Ray"

1. Attention is invited to the attached letter to the DCI from Mr. Walter W. Cowhig of Boston, Mass. which requests data from the files of this Agency on a "Projecting Electronic Ray." You will recall we evaluated this invention of Mr. William Marchant at the request of the President and with the assistance of your Office in December 1950. The background file on this effort two years ago is also attached for your information.

2. Unfortunately, Mr. Cowhig has seen at least part of this Agency's letter of 20 January 1951 closing out our 1950 review of the case, and he knows we have information on the "Ray." It would not be desirable to make our technical files on this case available to him, nor is it recommended that we go on record in a formal letter to him denying that we have any information or transmitting the unclassified history of the considerations of the invention by various other government agencies.

3. Therefore, it is recommended that Mr. Cowhig be contacted informally through the appropriate field office and given such of the following unclassified information as is deemed appropriate in such a way as to divorce this Agency from the case and avoid any subsequent publicity.

a. There is no technical information on the "Projecting Electronic Ray" available with CIA that would be helpful to Mr. Cowhig that is not available with the inventor, Mr. Marchant.

b. The invention has been evaluated by the Ordnance Corps, Department of the Army and by the National Inventors Council.

(1) The idea of the "Ray" was originally offered to the US Government in 1936, and it was the subject of an investigation contract of 9 May 1936 (W-ord-259 for \$3,000) between the Army Ordnance (Watertown Arsenal) and the Marchant Associates, Inc. The contract was terminated on 8 October 1937 due to failure of the inventor to fulfill his contractual obligations. This contract and all material pertaining to it was downgraded to "unclassified" on 30 July 1947.

DOCUMENT NO. 7

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C 2011

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

AUTH: HR 70.2

DATE: 24 Dec 81

REVIEWER: ☐~~SECRET~~**CONFIDENTIAL**

(2) The matter was reviewed by the Army Ordnance in 1937, upon a recommendation of Mr. James Roosevelt, and in 1938 as the result of an inquiry by Senator H. C. Lodge, Jr. In 1940 the matter was reopened by an offer of the inventor to modify the basic idea for use as an "airplane detector." In all cases, Army Ordnance reviews failed to find valid reasons for a positive action.

(3) Early in 1942 the same basic idea was submitted to the National Inventors Council which requested technical information necessary for evaluation. This information was not supplied and the project of evaluation was abandoned.

4. The attached papers should be returned to Central Records of Executive Registry upon completion of the action on the attached letter from Mr. Cowhig. The technical files on the "Ray" have been retained by this Office.

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Attachments

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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>UNCLASSIFIED</span> <span>RESTRICTED</span> <span>CONFIDENTIAL</span> <span>SECRET</span> </div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                   |                         |                 |
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| <b>CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY</b><br><b>OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                   |                         |                 |
| TO                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                   | INITIALS                | DATE            |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Assistant Director for<br>Scientific Intelligence | <i>HUC</i><br><i>ms</i> | <i>7 Jan</i>    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                         |                 |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Ex Reg for file                                   | <i>7mc</i>              | <i>1/2/53</i>   |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                         |                 |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                         |                 |
| FROM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                   |                         | DATE            |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Deputy Assistant Director for<br>Operations       |                         | <i>1 Jan 53</i> |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                         |                 |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                   |                         |                 |
| <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> ACTION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> RETURN</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> FILE</div> </div> <p><b>REMARKS:</b> As per your request, we are returning all papers in relation to "Projecting Electronic Ray" and letter from Mr. Walter Cowhig to the DCI.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; width: 100%;"> <span>SECRET</span> <span>CONFIDENTIAL</span> <span>RESTRICTED</span> <span>UNCLASSIFIED</span> </div> </div> |                                                   |                         |                 |

FORM 30-4  
SEP. 1947

16-63794-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

| TO   |                              | INITIALS     | DATE     |
|------|------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| 1    | AD/Scientific Intelligence   | <i>Hue</i>   | 23 Dec   |
| 2    | Deputy Director/Intelligence | <i>WJF</i>   | 26 Dec   |
| 3    | Assistant to the Director    | <i>REL</i>   |          |
| 4    | Assistant Director/O         |              |          |
| 5    | <i>AD/SI</i>                 |              |          |
| FROM |                              | INITIALS     | DATE     |
| 1    | Ass't to the Director        | <i>REL/L</i> | 12/15/52 |
| 2    |                              |              |          |
| 3    |                              |              |          |

- |                                      |                                               |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION          | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION      | <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY         | <input type="checkbox"/> RETURN    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT     | <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARATION OF REPLY | <input type="checkbox"/> DISPATCH  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONCURRENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION       | <input type="checkbox"/> FILE      |

REMARKS: Please return all papers together  
with your recommendation. I have talked with  
 -- nothing to be added from that  
quarter.

→ *ova*

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FORM 30-4  
SEP. 1947

16-68704-1 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

Bob: This is forwarded  
for the record only since  
[that]



has been  
of the request.



*Cowhig Industries*899 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON 18, MASS.

TEL., KENMORE 6-8833

December 13, 1952

General W. B. Smith,  
Central Intelligence Agency,  
2430 E Street N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Smith;

On December 11th I visited your office where the receptionists turned me over to you [redacted] who asked me to write this letter rather than wait for the information I am seeking. I showed [redacted] a copy of a letter addressed to Hon. Wells Blodgett Priest, Hackettstown, N.J. dated January 20, 1951 as written by Warner Stutler, Authorized Contracting Officer, wherein a letter from General Smith to Judge Priest was referred to. That letter was dated 12-12-50 on the subject of "Projecting Electronic Ray"

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The inventor of the "Projecting Electronic Ray" Mr. William Marchant, Woburn, Mass., has asked me to join him in the manufacture of the 'ray' for industrial applications but before I invest any substantial sums of money I must ask your assistance as being the only source of verifying statements made by Mr. Marchant.

21  
Mr. Marchant states that he has had four contracts with government agencies, the first with Army Ordnance, Contract Word-259 dated April 30, 1936, a secret contract between the United States of America and Marchant Assoc., Inc., for design and construction of Projector T-1. The cover sheet of the contract states 'Amount - \$ 3,000,000.00. I would want to be permitted to read the contracts that follow this contract for many reasons and probably the most important reason is that Mr. Marchant claims that he, in all the contracts, retained the right to manufacture the 'ray' for industrial uses and that there were no liens by the government, and further that application for Letters Patent were made in his name but kept secret at that time for security purposes.

The letter of January 20th referred to above states that the agreement regarding security was abrogated by that letter. Would you therefore advise me whether you are free to let me read the file on the subject so that I may learn where, in what other government departments there is a technical file that has evaluated the 'ray'.

Very truly yours,  
COWHIG INDUSTRIES

*Walter W. Cowhig*  
Walter W. Cowhig, Gen. Mgr.

EK-1-4/87

JAN 20 1951

ILLEGIB

Honorable W. Hodge Priest  
Deer Crossing Farm  
Hackettstown, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Priest:

This Agency wants to thank you for cooperating with its people who have looked into the promise of the "Projecting Electronic Ray", which was the subject of the letter from General W. B. Smith to you of 12 December 1950. General Smith has reported to the President that essentially the same idea had been brought to the attention of several government agencies by the inventor during the period of 1936 to 1942; that at that time it was appraised by the appropriate parts of the government and found to be infeasible and of no interest. This Agency concurs with these findings.

We are returning to you herewith all of the papers which you and Dr. Marchant have made available to us. Will you please sign the enclosed receipt and send it to the address given above.

Because of the outcome of our investigation, the agreement regarding security handling signed by you and me dated 21 December 1950 is abrogated.

We are disappointed at the outcome of this appraisal because such an electronic ray, if effective, would be of great interest and use to this country.

Very truly yours,

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Authorized Contracting Officer

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Encl: 6

1. Draft ltr to OO, Watertown Arsenal fr A. W. Marchant dated June 1956 (7 pages).
2. Formulas for making up Tube Filaments (1 page).
3. Tube Filaments (1 page).
4. Ray Tube Circuits (2 pages).
5. Apparent Principle of the Ray Working (1 page).
6. Drawing by A. W. Marchant, Sept. 25, 1950 (1).

Distribution:

Contracting Officer

OO/C

AD/SI ✓

General Counsel

02151

ILLEGIB

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
 OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

| TO |                 | INITIALS  | DATE     |
|----|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| 1  | AD/SI           | <i>am</i> | 3 Jan 51 |
| 2  | Central Records |           |          |
| 3  |                 |           |          |
| 4  |                 |           |          |
| 5  |                 |           |          |

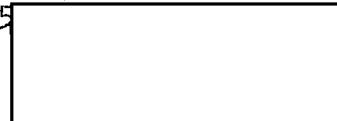
  

| FROM |                           | INITIALS  | DATE     |
|------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1    | Assistant to the Director | <i>YK</i> | 2 Jan 51 |
| 2    |                           |           |          |
| 3    |                           |           |          |

☐ APPROVAL      ☒ INFORMATION      ☐ SIGNATURE  
☐ ACTION      ☐ DIRECT REPLY      ☐ RETURN  
☐ COMMENT      ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY      ☐ DISPATCH  
☐ CONCURRENCE      ☐ RECOMMENDATION      ☒ 2 FILE

REMARKS: MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The information contained in attached  
 correspondence was given verbally to the President  
 by the DCI on 29 December 1950



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 SEP 1947

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